network of BSNL is being continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the Qos parameters prescribed by TRAI.

Exemption of postal services from Screening Committee

1051. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for exempting postal services form the purview of the Screening Committee to clear recruitment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No such proposal is at present under consideration with the Competent Authority in the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Closure of Guntakal Postal Division in Andhra Pradesh

1052. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of Guntakal postal division are deprived of the benefit of having age old Postal Division at Guntakal in Ananthapur Division as the age old postal division was closed unilaterally;

(b) whether there is any plan for such closure/merger/clubbing of post offices/postal divisions/RMS divisions in Andhra Pradesh as well as in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) It is fact that the Guntakal Postal Division has been merged with Ananthapur

Postal Division as the Guntakal Postal Division was a sub-standard division with a total workload of 0.75 units against the required workload of 0.90 units.

(b) and (c) Closure, merger, clubbing of post offices, postal divisions, RMS divisions is not a planned activity. It is done on a case-to-case basis in the country where such post offices, postal and RMS divisions are not justified on the basis of prescribed norms.

Common service centres in rural areas

1053. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the IT industry to make a concerted effort to spread its operations from major metros to secondary cities in the country;

(b) if so, the response received by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had approved establishment of one lakh broad band connected common service centres in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Ministry of Urban Development in coordination with the Department of Information Technology and NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service companies) had convened a thematic workshop on the Initiatives for setting up of Integrated Modem Township for IT/BPO Industries in Tier II cities with the participation of Chief Secertaries, Secretaries Urban Development/Local Self Government, Secretaries (IT) from various States/ UTs and also representatives of the concerned Central Ministries and representative of NASSCOM. The template suggesting a framework as guidelines has been circulated to the States.

(c) and (d) The Government has recently approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would